

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 03106 01 OF 02 241851Z

56

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSC-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 COME-00 NSCE-00 /064 W

----- 111723

O R 241812Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6698

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03106

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT GW PL

SUBJECT: KIEP'S MOVE FROM BUNDESTAG TO LOWER SAXONY

CABINET: IMPLICATIONS FOR POLISH TREATIES?

REF: HAMBURG 244 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY. WALTHER LEISLER KIEP'S

ACCEPTANCE FEBRUARY 23 OF THE POSITION OF FINANCE

MINISTER IN LOWER SAXONY

MOVES AN OUTSPOKEN CDU PROPONENT OF DETENTE

(READ FRG-POLISH AGREEMENTS) FROM THE BUNDESTAG TO THE

BUNDESRAT. KIEP IS NOW IN A POSITION TO FURNISH AN

ALIBI TO ALBRECHT SHOULD THE LOWER SAXONY CDU WISH TO

SUPPORT THE POLISH PENSION AGREEMENT IN THE MARCH 12

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 03106 01 OF 02 241851Z

BUNDESRAT VOTE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SURPRISING ANNOUNCEMENT BY MINISTER-PRESIDENT ALBRECHT THAT CDU BUNDESTAG DEPUTY LEISLER KIEP WILL ASSUME THE POSITION OF FINANCE MINISTER AND TEMPORARY ECONOMICS MINISTER IN HIS LOWER SAXONY CABINET CAUGHT BONN BY SURPRISE. THE GENERALLY HELD EARLY CONSENSUS IS THAT THIS SWITCH REPRESENTS A POLITICAL MASTERSTROKE FOR KIEP, ALBRECHT AND CDU CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE KOHL. IT PRESENTS THE LOWER SAXONY CDU WITH AN INDIVIDUAL WELL THOUGHT OF IN SPD/FDP COALITION CIRCLES AND THUS INCREASES THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE CDU TO THE LOWER SAXONY FDP AS A COALITION PARTNER. IT ALSO SUGGESTS IMPROVED CHANCES FOR LOWER SAXONY SUPPORT OF THE POLISH PENSION AGREEMENT IN THE BUNDESRAT, OF WHICH KIEP WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BECOME A MEMBER BY VIRTUE OF HIS NEW POSITION. HE WAS ONE OF THE CDU DISSIDENTS WHO VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE POLISH AGREEMENTS IN THE BUNDESTAG LAST WEEK.

2. KIEP HAS BEEN A PROMINENT FIGURE IN CDU INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS, EVEN IF HIS VIEWS ON "OSTPOLITIK" HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. OF LATE, HE HAS CLEARLY LOST INFLUENCE IN THE BONN CDU SCENE. LIKEWISE, HIS BASE IN THE HESSE CDU HAS BEEN SLOWLY ERODING, IN PART BECAUSE OF HIS COOL RELATIONSHIP WITH HESSIAN CDU CHIEF DREGGER AND HIS COLD RELATIONSHIP TO THE CSU'S FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS. HE WILL CONTINUE, HOWEVER, TO PLAY A NATIONAL ROLE IN THE CDU WHERE, AS TREASURER, HE IS A MEMBER OF THE PARTY PRESIDUM AND CAN THUS CONTINUE HIS BRILLIANT FUND-RAISING EFFORTS FOR THE PARTY.

3. KIEP HAS STATED THAT HIS TWO REASONS FOR GOING TO HANNOVER ARE DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH HIS DESIRE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO ALBRECHT: TO ASSIST IN REBUILDING THE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 03106 02 OF 02 241825Z

56

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSC-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

SAM-01 OMB-01 COME-00 /064 W

----- 111363

O R 241812Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6699

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03106

LOWER SAXONY FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURE, AND TO HELP ALBRECHT DEVELOP A "POLITICAL BRIDGEHEAD TO THE OTHER SIDE" (READ FDP) "SO THAT IN THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS THIS CAN BE STRENGTHENED AS AN EXAMPLE FOR POLITICAL CHANGES IN THE OTHER FEDERAL STATES AND ALSO IN BONN."

4. FOR KOHL THE CHANGE REMOVES AN EMBARRASSING FRIEND FROM THE CDU BONN FOREIGN POLICY SCENE, WHICH IN ANY EVENT OF LATE HAS BEEN MORE AND MORE REPRESENTED BY FRAKTION LEADER CARSTENS. A MEMBER OF THE CDU PLANNING STAFF HAS INFORMED US PRIVATELY THAT FROM A CDU POINT OF VIEW THE MOVE HAS TO BE CONSIDERED A MASTER STROKE. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 03106 02 OF 02 241825Z

5. SPD REACTION TO THE CHANGE HAS BEEN PREDICTABLY MIXED. ON THE ONE HAND, KIEP IS SEEN TO BE THE VICTIM OF CDU/CSU POWER POLICIES, FORCING HIM OUT OF THE FOREIGN POLICY ARENA INTO THE HANNOVER BOONDOCKS. ON THE OTHER HAND, AS WAS POINTED OUT TO US TODAY BY AN SPD OFFICIAL, THIS PRESENTS AN ADDED MORAL FORCE IN HANNOVER IN SUPPORT OF THE POLISH AGREEMENT. KIEP, OF COURSE, HAS DECLARED THAT IN HIS NEW CAPACITY HE WILL AGAIN HAVE TO REEXAMINE HIS REACTION TO THE POLISH AGREEMENT. (COMMENT: FEW, HOWEVER, DOUBT THAT KIEP

IS NOW READY TO TURN HIS BACK ON THE GOVERNMENT'S
"OSTPOLITIK" AFTER HAVING SUPPORTED IT SO PUBLICLY OVER
THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.)

6. FDP SPOKESMAN GERWALD HAS SUMMED UP FREE DEMOCRATIC
REACION TO THE KIEP SWITCH WITH THE STATEMENT THAT
"BASED ON THE INDIVIDUAL CONCERNED, THIS MUST BE SEEN
AS A RESPECTABLE DEVELOPMENT." THIS MAY BE AN UNDER-
STATEMENT. LONG AFTER THE POLISH AGREEMENT HAS BEEN
RATIFIED (OR REJECTED), THE KIEP MOVE MAY TURN OUT TO
HAVE BEEN A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN THE DEVELOPMENT
OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL FDP TIES WITH THE UNION PARTIES.
HILLENBRAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, SOCIAL INSURANCE, PENSION PLANS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN03106
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760069-0311
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760221/aaaaarrv.tel
Line Count: 182
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 HAMBURG 244
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by woolfhd>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIEP'S MOVE FROM BUNDESTAG TO LOWER SAXONY CABINET: IMPLICATIONS FOR POLISH TREATIES?
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GE, PL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006